

[Challenges to Creating an] Integrated Surface Water Monitoring Strategy for Southern California

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Regionalized Monitoring Makes Sense

- Place your site(s) in context
- Regional reference condition
- Help to develop regional assessment tools
- Improves your agency's capabilities
- Cost effective

Who Wants to Dance?

- **Ongoing, integrated collaborative regional monitoring only works with broad and non-exclusionary participation**
- **In southern California**
 - All of the major municipal stormwater agencies
 - Three RWQCBs
 - Major inland POTWs
 - Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
- **Still missing some potential participants**
 - Industrial stormwater dischargers
 - Academia
 - Non-governmental organizations

Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Member Agencies

- **Ventura Co WPD**
- **Los Angeles Co DPW**
- **Los Angeles Co SD**
- **Orange County RDMD**
- **Riverside County FCD**
- **San Bernardino FCD**
- **San Diego Co DEH**
- **City of Long Beach**
- **San Diego RWQCB**
- **Santa Ana RWQCB**
- **Los Angeles RWQCB**

What's A Stream?



How Do We Ensure Comparability?

- There is a wide range of experience in multi-agency programs
- DQOs, training, and communication
- Focus is in four areas thus far
 - Educate the managers
 - Presurvey field training
 - Integrate CAMLnet
 - Mandate ongoing audits

Status of Regulatory Driven Bioassessment Programs in So Cal

	Bioassessment?	How Long?
Ventura Co WPD	Yes	5 yr
Los Angeles Co DPW	Yes	1 yr
Los Angeles Co SD	Yes	2 yr
Los Angeles City EMD	No	New permit?
Orange County RDMD	Yes	1 yr
Riverside County FCD	No	This yr
San Bernardino FCD	No	Next yr?
San Diego Co DEH	Yes	2 yr

How To Share Data?

- **When multiple agencies participate, ultimately someone has to pull all the data together**
- **NPDES Agencies have a wide range of IM capabilities**
- **So Cal chose a strategy of developing standardized data transfer formats**
 - **do not require specific hardware or software**
 - **formats compatible with SWAMP**
- **Draft SDTF manual within two months**

Is Assessment Tool Development Ever Done?

- **Applications of existing tools in new situations**
 - focused on two in So Cal
- **Assessment tools for new indicators**
- **Stressor identification tools**
- **Implementing regional tools into site specific monitoring and regulation**

Resources?

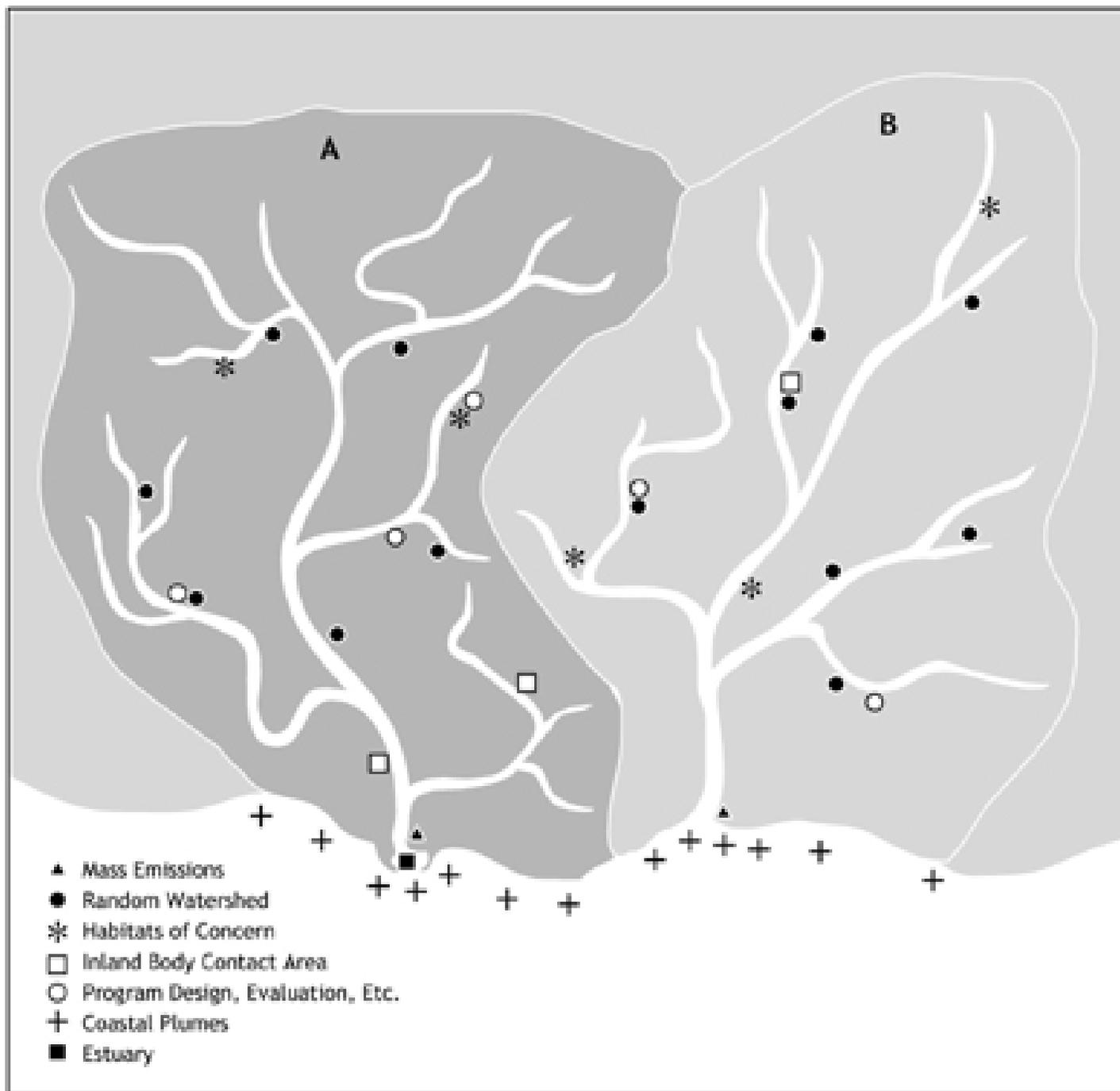
- **There are multiple strategies for developing a regional monitoring program**
 - One agency does it all
 - Many smaller agencies collaborate
- **In So Cal, more than \$500K is spent on freshwater bioassessment NPDES monitoring annually**
 - will increase with time
- **Partial reallocation of NPDES effort is the primary resource in marine and beach monitoring programs in So Cal**

Monitoring Questions and Sampling Design?

- **Monitoring questions are the focal point of any program**
 - monitoring program philosophy
- **There are often competing design demands**
 - create nested designs
- **The SMC has created one example**
 - integrated regional monitoring planning starts next year

Monitoring Philosophy

- **Monitoring data should be focused on answering questions**
 - No data collection for data's sake
 - Answered questions should result in management action
- **The greater the impact, the greater the monitoring**
 - less impact means less monitoring
- **Three part monitoring framework**
 - core monitoring, regional monitoring, special studies



Are Common Vision and Positive Group Attitudes Essential?

- Collaborative, integrated monitoring programs are a lot of work
- Developing a working relationship among regulated and regulatory agencies is fundamental
- Collaborative integrated monitoring projects accomplish more than regional assessments
- The benefits of working together can yield a sustainable program